undertaken as an experiment on parcel traffic by East Coast Railway and it has been observed that the earnings on parcel traffic from the month of July 2005 to October 2005 have increased by 5.21% in comparison to the corresponding months of last year.

(e) The subject will be reviewed in the normal course after gaining sufficient experience.

Launching of more Luxury Trains

1175. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch more luxury trains like "Palace on Wheels" in certain States to boost tourism to improve the economy of the respective regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the historical heritage of Orissa is one of the most sought after religious hubs in the world, i.e. Lord Jagannath Temple in Puri and around 500 other spectacular temples and Maths in the State;

(d) whether Government also propose to run such a train to improve the economy of this backward State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A Memorandum of Understanding has been executed between the Indian Railways and the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) for introducing a luxury tourist train in the Karnataka sector. Presently, there is no other proposal for launching such trains in other States.

Extension of Nizamuddin-Orissa Hirakud Express

1176. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had in the recent railway budget for the year 2005-06 announced that Nizamuddin-Orissa Hirakud Express would be extended up to Vizag; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to become operational?